

REMARKS

The Office Action of presents the examination of claims 1-20. The present paper amends claims 1, 5 and 14 to incorporate the features of claims dependent thereon, and cancels claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17 and 18, which became redundant in view of the amendments to the claims. Dependency of claim 8 is amended to maintain dependence from a pending claim and to recite a different mutant CA enzyme. Claim 11 is similarly amended. Support for these amendments is found in paragraph [0032] and Figure 7, *inter alia*.

Dependent claims 21-26 are newly added, directed to some preferred embodiments of the invention. Support for new claims 21-24 is provided in the specification at, *inter alia* the table in paragraph [0030].

The sole substantive issue precluding allowance of the present claims is a rejection for alleged lack of enablement by the specification of embodiments of the invention using a fluorophore other than a fluorescent sulfonamide as the donor fluorophore. While applicants do not agree with this allegation, the present claims are so amended so as to advance prosecution of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to file an application directed to the canceled subject matter pursuant to 35 USC § 120.

The Examiner has also objected to the use of the trade nameterm "ALEXA FLUOR 594" in the claims, providing a structure for the molecule and CAS naming. The claims have been amended to adopt the CAS naming as suggested, and the specification is similarly amended at the first recitation of the tradename.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. The favorable actions of withdrawal of the standing rejections and allowance of the claims are requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Dr. Mark J. Nuell Reg. No. 36,623 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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